

BSPS NEWS

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BSPS MEETINGS

11-13 September 2007

BSPS AGM 2007

**4 July 2007, in the Vera Anstey Room at LSE at
10.30am**

To be followed by the day meeting detailed above.

All members are invited to attend the AGM. Nominations for Council vacancies, and Vice-President have now closed, having been invited in the February Newsletter. Please note that members present will be asked to vote on a proposal from the current BSPS Council, about the timing of the handover from the current President and Vice-President to the newly elected President and Vice-President, and from retiring Council members to newly elected Council members. Although Council members and Hon. Officers will continue to be elected at the AGM, it is proposed that the actual handover of office should be at the Annual Conference. This is because the current office holders will have made a large contribution to the organisation of that year's Conference, and it is felt that it would be more appropriate if the actual handover takes place at the Conference itself.



**Fully funded PhD (1+3 or +3): ESRC/SCOTTISH
EXECUTIVE /GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
FOR SCOTLAND - COLLABORATIVE PhD STUDENTSHIP**

**Joint estimation of small area population and
household characteristics**

In both public and private applications we need to know the size and age-sex structure of the population and characteristics of households so as to provide appropriate goods, services and housing stock. Outside of census years there is a need to estimate small area populations and household characteristics. This information is essential for good governance through monitoring the success of previous policy and planning for the future. Estimates of populations and households also provide denominators for social indicators such as health and unemployment rates.

This project aims to produce a parallel time-series of 'fit-for-purpose' estimates of small area populations and household characteristics from 2001 up to the latest available data. This will be achieved by identifying user needs so that estimate outputs are relevant to the Scottish Executive's priorities as well as the wider research community; reviewing estimation methods and evaluating the strength of the methods.

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tended to have an enhanced health status compared to those living in areas with a lower density. There was some evidence that communities reaching very high levels of density (over 90%) also had poorer health outcomes. When controlling for factors such as age and socio-economic status, the 'group density' effect has been shown to influence the risk for poor mental, physical and maternal health (low birth weight and pre-term delivery). This association was suggested to relate to the impact that community level psychosocial elements have on health inequalities when material influences are controlled for in analyses. It is likely that as the density of a community increases in a given area the minority status and stigma that group is exposed to will reduce. The 'group density' effect on health may therefore in part be understood by psychosocial factors such as social support. It was hypothesized that an understanding of the group density effect and the psychosocial